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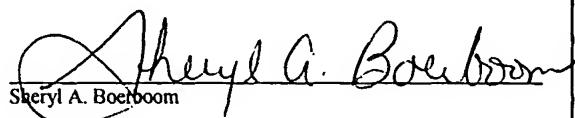
PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: SWART ET AL. Examiner: UNKNOWN
Patent No.: 10/043,827 Group Art Unit: 1761
Filed: JANUARY 11, 2002 Docket No.: 163.1386USU1
Title: METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR REDUCING MICROBIAL BURDEN ON
A FOOD PRODUCT

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8:

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, with sufficient postage, in an envelope addressed to: BOX MISSING PARTS, Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on May 9, 2002.


Sheryl A. Boeboom

PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME

BOX MISSING PARTS
Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

In accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a), it is respectfully requested that a one-month extension of time be granted in which to respond to the outstanding Notice to File Missing Parts mailed February 13, 2002, said period of response being extended from April 13, 2002 to May 13, 2002.

Our check in the amount of \$110.00 is enclosed to cover the required extension fee for a large entity.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
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Date: May 9, 2002
Mark T. Skoog
Reg. No. 40,178
MTS:sab

